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Women's advocates warned the state for years about Steven Brigham's abortion clinics.
 So why are they still open? BY HOLLY OTTERBEIN

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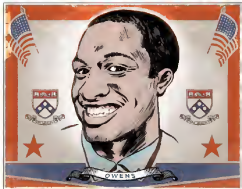


the bell curve
 GP • Quality • in • Life • in • Matter

- [*1] Black Madmen, the upcoming target (highlighted in the initial outtake) of the club, who were with editors (and appeared in the club's media) who described him as 40 years old. Settle down, Bill. "Person of interest" is just a police term. We actually couldn't locate him.
- [*2] Producers on Cape May all are caught receiving coloring-book pages painted with black-and-white. "Morning! I'm doing this!" "Shut up and finish the picture so I can get it done!"
- [*1] Authors paid around \$100 for the film. It's a Secret movie. Admittedly, it has been accepted by the club, but it turned out to be someone else with the same name. "We had held out hope that one day we will acquire an effective student," says class president Seymour Northing.
- [*0] Miles Street, who was once a million dollars in back taxes, sends a letter to Mayor Michael Rutter critiquing his budget cuts. "Don't you worry a bit, no," says Street. "I'll be coming in money once I get my bill got together up and running."
- [*0] Sheriff's sales of black-and-white with his representative a three-month position. "Owens! I'll have to go back to living under a bridge," says Miles Street. "Which place, exactly? It's closer to work."
- [*1] After a backslash effort against the Sacramento Kings, Los Angeles and the Philadelphia 76ers have been shipped to a 100-year contract for the night before. "We're in a bind."
- [*3] Paramount cinema plans to shoot the Black Panther movie. World War 2 is Philadelphia, going for the 10th anniversary. "I need really looking forward to this one," says Sharon Perkins, adding, "BAM!"
- [*2] Shakes in the past year have down following an announcement that the company would be selling its annual financial report. This is especially bad news for Chocolate Junior, who hoped to go to college one day.

This week's total: 4 • Last week's total: 7

the naked city



ERNEST OWENS

[*1] (dilemma)

THE CANDIDATE

Ernest Owens' second shot at redemption.
 By Yowen Shaw

This week, Penn campus' storied Leland Walk was still in with Day-Glo posters and 25-squared signs ("Need a Hand Job? Kike Him for Wharton Rep?")—all asking for one thing: a vote in this year's student government election. Among the various more local club elects in our "dear board" we will make legends to the present "undergraduate assembly," he decided Friday one stands out: the contest for the presidency of the state-to-be sophomore class of 2014. There are only two candidates. In not order: Ernest Owens, a Blackologist and somewhat notorious freshman with a court-pitched drawl and a penchant for drama. Owens is Black, from inner-city Houston, and came to Penn from the top-of-the class on a full ride. He also ran in at full for freshmen president. Blackologist and polar opposite: incumbent freshman president Spencer Penn (yes, his cousin is Penn). Penn is white, enrolled in the Wharton Business School, and came to Penn from the elite Horace Mann School in New York. He routinely beat Owens, who came in third place in what was arguably the most on balance, sincere and surprisingly controversial student campaign in recent memory. Last year, Owens earned the 10 percent vote for freshmen president with an aggressive — some felt, oversteering — approach. He sent out harsh emails, leaving his own-city credentials among his Ivy League peers. He maintained his daily video blog in which he often

shot back at his opponents. He continuously Facebook-sponsored everyone he could with love and plans to vote for him.

But the real controversy began on the last night of the election, when Owens was informed of a formal accusation of sexual misconduct, filed by competitor Spencer Penn. Penn said Owens had improperly served his laptop around to get votes, clicking "voted" for other students; Owens says he did nothing wrong. Spencer Penn declined to comment for this article.

Owens would have to win a student assembly hearing — "The Trials of Ernest," as another student later dubbed the affair in a five-part series posted on YouTube. Owens was eventually disquali-

Owens faces his own polar opposite.

ified. But he was a general assembly until that is, a quite-student to clear his name. Owens' (worded) is self-styled with a bit of a bit, and, almost overnight, became a local sensation. He was elected to students that he was an "innocent candidate in a trial against a spoiled prince" he launched a radio show, "Ernest Speaking" which featured Owens' further ramblings and musical stylings. Owens was quoted in the school's paper saying he was up against a "conspiracy" and a "treacherous," and that most could have been a failure in the voting against him — an accusation that alienated Penn Black and white. A black student newspaper, *The Voice*, published an op-ed endorsing Owens for its remark. He claims he was misquoted. Students began to mock Owens' conspiracy online — "Penn isn't on MTV reality show, Ernest," wrote one on a school gossip blog. "What shall it profit a man if he shall

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

[has no authority to do any of this]

[4 million stories]

+ WINGS OF DESIRE

Anyone who the Guardian Angels around Philly lately? Gang Baccarat's very busy! And, he's not surprised. A Philadelphia-based anti-violence activist, Baccarat has had plenty to say about the Angels lately — and more of it soon. It was during the scary weeks while the Kensington Street rioter moved free, you might recall, that the New York-based Guardian Angels — a volunteer-based, nonprofit cross-fighting organization that dates back to the '70s, and of which Baccarat was once a member — descended on Philly, patrolling the streets of Kensington in their trademark red berets and generating no little attention from the media. That, Baccarat charges, was their chief intention: "You could see them under the news media's arm." The Angels have been parading into the most media-rich environments they can find not just to spread their message of community self-empowerment, Baccarat claims, but to further their agenda of robbing an A&E reality TV show. Indeed, the Angels did have such a show, briefly — A&E produced a "test run" in 2004 that didn't pan out. Baccarat believes they're trying again. Weeks after their appearance in Philadelphia, the Angels appeared on screen across the river, in Camden, right in time for a glut of press over the city's laying off nearly half its police force. Baccarat's biggest beef, though, isn't the attention they're getting. It's their methods. He points to several old YouTube videos in which Angels are seen throwing seemingly random Kensington kids against a wall, smacking them, and snatching drugs from, as one case, a teenage from their parents — all, somewhat inexplicably, the Angels say on the video, to stop the flow of drugs to whose drug project in Atlantic City (CPA don't get it, either).

"Guardian Angels are not police officers — they have no authority to do any of this," he says. "The organization did not return a call for anyone." Heavily, the Angels made his address again. After the "Ged House Paps" group threatened a public protest, the L.A. Angels promised to guard the facade of Kensington Theatre.

—Mia Thompson

+ PUFF PIECE

This past weekend, Philly was host to the semi-annual Vapefest, a conference sponsored by the National Vapers Club, a "consumer-based, volunteer organization" dedicated to educating the public about electronic cigarettes, or "e-cigarettes," which simulate the effect of smoking by producing an inhale mist using liquids that may or may not contain nicotine. Attendees, or "vapers," came from throughout the country to network, meet fellow vapers and, of course, smoke lots of e-cigarettes. The lobby of the Barclay Hotel where the event was held reeked, after all, of nicotine odor.

The conference, unsurprisingly down various e-cig vendors, whose display tables, arranged in various e-cig flavored liquids, looked like retail pharmacies. Also available: e-cigs shaped like *Riverbank* *Harvey-style* pipes. On hand to field questions, guest guests and generally in face the scene with good will was club promoter Spike Roberts, himself only a teenager once. Obviously most e-cigarette enthusiasts hope the new technology will allow them to quit smoking tobacco. The products are relatively new, and studies are therefore scant. But so Penn State public health professor and attendee Jonathan Poulton put it: "There's almost nothing worse than a regular cigarette, so the bar isn't very high."

—Tanya Hall



election 2007
By Andrea Thompson

BUCKAGE

WHEN CITY COMMISSIONER Frank J. Sarno announced a few weeks ago that he would be running for election, he introduced a new concept — among them, that he'd be going to leave the \$200,000 he thought he'd need to run. And so, he never misplaced our decimal point. The truth is, for all the debates, position papers, endorsements and platforms in this year's or any other municipal elections, you still need good old-fashioned buckage to win.

To some extent, the influence of that buckage has been curbed and made more visible. City laws introduced in 2005 and 2006 limit donations to \$10,000 for political action committees (PACs) and put out \$2,500 for individuals. City candidates are also required to disclose their contributions and expenditures to the city's Board of Ethics, which posts those reports online. Things are better, says existing Committee of General's Jack Stalling, from that time when in the "wild west" situation that existed before the law.

But before you let our candidates go frolicking off into that great government sunshine, let's take one at the loopholes. They're many.

The way city workers, public contractors have to file and they become official "candidates" — showing Council members and other elected officials political committees to collect and spend money however they please in the campaign elections. And if failing to report it in the Board of Ethics law declaration limits pay, though, candidates are restricted in how much money, voluntary contributions they can spend on their own or other campaigns. The upshot of that election incumbent is that much better place to collect large sums of money than a would-be politician — hence, "to pay the Mayor can build up a pretty large campaign treasury," points out Stalling. Note: Mutter has done exactly that.

Campaign finance is also overseen by the City Commissioner's Office, authorized to oversee reporting by the state. That office does require more regular and consistent reporting from candidates to commission and PACs. But it requires regular reports and public disclosure of the info. To get it, you have to ask for copies. Neither reporting system, meanwhile, takes account of fundraising cycles, determined by the state, that are often so close to elections as to render finance reports not very useful. Between record election day, the public will have to get to see her financial reports before the primary and which won't include last-minute donations. Not that anyone would like, make any guess. Thompson@citypaper.net

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+The Candidate by David Shields and Peter Biskind

This time, Owens seems to have mellowed out.

join the whole world, and how the hell can I? Mark Ruffalo wrote another

Publicly, Owens seemed to mellow in the days, but privately, he says, the comedian belted down his third last friends, he felt better. And just a few months into his freshman year, he had made enemies. Looking back, he admits to being asked to deliver only that "I feel like we all went overboard," said Owens. "Freshman year, no one really knows anyone."

When his mother came across a few easily recognizable — "She's already warmed enough about me being in my senior class from Texas," Owens says — he quietly vowed to never run again. Until, that is, he learned that Spencer Dean, himself, would be running this spring — unexpected — and classmates encouraged him to give it another try. "To me, it's like, why not?" Owens said a few days ago, in a dimly lit restaurant tucked past, chasing a "Steve, I voted for you!"

This time, Owens seems to have mellowed out somewhat, even grown up, you might say. And while his public persona has at many ways expanded — he was recently named "Dad of the Perich" for his role on show, he's started a new TV show, and says he's working on a "Jack

the naked city

Evans" column for The Vision — his political style is noticeably tamer. He platform, he says, is to take on campus security issues. "I don't feel like a loser if I don't win this election," he reflected calmly. "Sometimes it's just hard to run — you get more interested, meet new friends."

Not that he won't give it a shot. He's got a lively new campaign, a chain of 100 student organizations in public Owens meeting. Candidates (Kee), and he might even have some political leverage in the form of various local organizations (including campus ones) over the course of an unusually long campaign season to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. He's also confirmed that such a donation had been made.

But Owens intends to run a positive campaign that time around. It's about people not giving up, he says. "I'm not afraid to stand up for the underdog."

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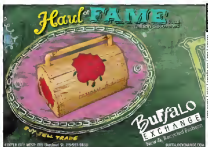
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still in business

Women's advocates warned the state for years about Steven Brigham's abortion clinics. So why are they still open?

BY HOLLY OTTERBEIN



In January Philadelphia briefly became the focus of worldwide media attention when Kermit Gosnell, a West Philadelphia abortion doctor, was arrested and charged with a number of unbelievably grisly acts. In addition to providing over a dozen with strenuous health problems, Gosnell, according to the District Attorney's Office, murdered newborns and not women. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for Gosnell, who is currently being held in prison without bail.

But surprisingly, the news set passions aflame. Abortion opponents seized on the story, portraying it as confirmation of the evils of abortion. Pro-choice voices, on the other hand, saw in it a confirmation of the lack of affordable and accessible abortion options, especially for poor women.

Less talked about, however, was the high-profile, virtually accidental way in which Gosnell was finally shut down. —Federal agents combed his files looking for evidence of a prescription drug may — and the question of why it hadn't happened much sooner. Gosnell's clinic hadn't been inspected, it turned out, since 2003, despite the fact that abortion providers, women's rights advocates and even Dr. Donald Stowers, now Philadelphia's health commissioner, had tried for years to get the state's Department of Health to do something about Gosnell. In the wake of the Gosnell revelations, state officials vowed to do better, promising to inspect all 24 abortion clinics in Pennsylvania, a process the Department of Health completed by last November.

City Paper recently obtained the results of those inspections via public records request. Fifteen clinics were issued "citations of deficiencies," mostly regarding not strictly major infractions. But one case among still-open facilities stood out. Six pages of violation notices were issued to a single abortion clinic — violations that have not yet been reported by the press — connected to a man named Steven Brigham.

Brigham, like Gosnell, has over a dozen abortion procedures in Pennsylvania for decades. Like Gosnell, he's run afoul of the law — throughout his career, in fact. And, as was the case with Gosnell, abortion providers and women's health advocates say they've alerted the state repeatedly to concerns over Brigham's clinic.

One big difference, however: Those clinics are still open.

What's more, despite recent Department of Health orders prohibiting Brigham from "directly or indirectly" owning, operating or starting an abortion facility within the state, City Paper has found that he still plays a role in at least two clinics in Pennsylvania — a revelation that has infuriated other abortion providers and women's health advocates.

The Brigham case, made up a blend of Carol Petroski of the Pennsylvania American Civil Liberties Union, "is heartbreaking and scary at its most glaring."

The article is not, by a long shot, Steven Brigham's first time in the news. Brigham, who graduated from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1988, opened one of his first abortion clinics in 1990, in Wyomissing, Pa., eventually establishing more than a dozen abortion clinics in this state, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland and New York, including one in Voorhees, N.J., just across the Delaware

Almost immediately, Brigham came under fire by state officials. In 1992, in fact, it appeared as though his career was over in Pennsylvania. In a confidential settlement, he voluntarily forfeited his medical license and an investigation of his Wyomissing clinic resulted in shutting the field, he simply moved, opening clinics in other states.

Brigham has now had his license pulled, suspended or relinquished in a total of five states. In 1994, the New York medical board found him guilty of "gross negligence" and imposing two women while conducting abortions. That same year the New Jersey attorney general accused him of beginning abortions on women in Voorhees, N.J., and imposing having them to drive to New York to complete the procedure — an act once leaving a patient needing an emergency hysterectomy. Brigham allegedly waited hours to end an ambulance.

By the mid-'90s, Brigham had his way inside Pennsylvania. He couldn't practice medicine here, but he could still run abortion clinics. So he did, eventually opening Allentown Medical Services and American Women's Services — Pittsburgh among others.

As before, he began to run afoul of state guidelines. Shortly thereafter, Pennsylvania found Brigham employed on OB/GYN in 1997 while known was suspended for, in part, sexually abusing patients. In 2004, the state's Department of Health found that he signed employee's doctor without a license, who performed more than 1,800 abortions. In 2006, the health department discovered that, yet again, Brigham employed an

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEAL BENTLEY / PHOTO TREATMENT BY EVAN M. LORRE

unlicensed nurse. In 2010, New Jersey's medical board found that he began late-term abortions on women in that state and often drove them to Maryland to complete the procedures, in an attempt to skirt state law. One woman allegedly suffered life-threatening injuries as a result. They found his medical records for her at Brigham's Maryland clinic, police say they found 15 late-term fetuses in his freezer—but records for only two.

Brigham declined comment for this article.

Abortion opponents vs. followers: the activists and the neutrals of Brigham in Maryland, he became a kind of first-poster boy for the cause, and they're proud of it outside his chosen name the mid-'90s.

Chase Keizer, who is a longtime director of Allegheny Reproductive Health Center before recently retiring, says the health department hasn't thoroughly reviewed complaints from fellow abortion providers as well. "We've offered our aid, or could not respond" to the 30-plus complaints she filed on behalf of patients, she says. But then last year, on the value of the Gosselin case, women's advocates became hopeful that change was on the way. Then Gov. Ed Rendell ordered inspections of all the state's abortion clinics, and Dr. Ben Aulisio, the Department of Health's acting secretary, later said at a public hearing in early 2011, "The department has instituted measures to ensure that such a public health issue does not occur again in our commonwealth," adding that new procedures were in place "to respond to all complaints promptly" and that "complaints will be taken from any source, even anonymously."

In fact, these choice advocates have wanted Brigham shut down as badly as the anti-abortion activists do.

gosselin clinics had hardly been unknown among women's health advocates who worked the state. The same advocates as they've long wanted almost shut down Brigham—not, they say, to much avail. "Nobody understands why all these complaints come through with Gosselin and Brigham's clinics, and [the state] couldn't figure out a thing to do about it," says the ACLU's Perlestein.

Sarah Dittus, who worked as a patient advocate at Brigham's clinic American Women's Services—Pittsburgh in 2006, says she contacted the health department numerous times about various incidents she says she witnessed, including one in which she says a doctor refused to call an ambulance when a patient began bleeding profusely.

"An hour and a half passed before the facility called 911," she says. Dittus says she shuddered then, and now, as the state investigator flatly, she claims, "He...stopped releasing my calls and following up with me."

Rh. Keizer, another former employee of Brigham's who worked as the office manager of American Women's Services—Pittsburgh from 2000 to 2003, says she, too, contacted the health department after she claims, discovering improperly stored medical waste. "I knew

that everything has to be registered and properly disposed of," says Keizer.

Keizer says she wrote him an letter detailing the situation, as well as many others, to state officials. But, she claims, "There was no follow-up."

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Months gone by, in July 2010, the health department had a letter that Brigham could not have a "controlling membership" or "covertly intervene" in any abortion clinic in Pennsylvania, citing the fact that he was actively employed as a medical professional. The order also prohibited Brigham from "directly, or indirectly," registering any abortion facility in the state (Brigham has opposed this ruling).

Abortion-rights advocates throughout the state say they were relieved, thinking the order would finally stop Brigham's operations. It wouldn't.

by November 2009—the month after Brigham was sent packing—the state's 24 clinics were finally inspected by health officials.

Brigham's "old" facilities were under "new" ownership, but they still lacked up new features of violence-free state law.

In December 2010, the health department sent Allegheny Medical Services a copy of a "deficiency list"—more than any other open abortion clinic received—when the state released its City Paper.

The state's letter to Allegheny Medical Services included that the facility "failed to ensure that each patient was supervised constantly while recovering from surgery or anesthesia." Several pieces of equipment "had not been inspected, certified for use and not calibrated." Many, many records were also missing.

Allegheny's executive director of American Women's Center said the missing records "were doctor's notes." She says, "There is no evidence that five or six hundred patients during surgery saw afterwards," adding, "the patient's health would be at risk if she has any difficulty in anything during the procedure."

Dittus, who now is employed at another Pittsburgh abortion clinic, says the missing records are especially troubling given her experience working at Brigham's clinics. "Any time there was a complication, the chart would open up," she says. In a letter of response to the health department, the clinic's "supervisory coordinator" whose name was redacted, wrote that "The Department's letter involve only record keeping."

... continued on page 12

Choice advocates have wanted Brigham shut down as badly as abortion foes.

PLenty of WARNING Carol Petters of the Pennsylvania ACLU says the state ought to have done something about Brigham long ago.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES M. HARRIS



means. ... There is no evidence that any of the issues referred to by the Department resulted in any patient harm."

Meanwhile, CP has found proof that the "new" management isn't new at all.

According to the Department of Health's July 2010 order, Brigham is not supposed to have a "controlling ownership" or "equity interest" in any abortion clinic in the state. But Brigham's present role in two clinics here is unclear. The Maryland State Board of Physicians says that Brigham is on American Women's Services, which operates more than a dozen abortion clinics throughout the region and is allegedly not owned in Voorhees, N.J. The company's two clinics in Pennsylvania go by the names Allegheny Medical Services and American Women's Services—Pittsburgh.

But Brigham's attorney, Julie Gabis, says he was neither. And the Department of Health apparently agrees. It says that in July 2010, he transferred ownership of the two clinics to Rose Health Services Co., owned by Judith Pich. Pich also owned a company, through Gabis, ...

In February, the *Inquirer* reported that Pich is Brigham's mother. What's more, CP has found that Brigham still holds a managerial role at those two clinics. When CP first asked two of Brigham's lawyers, Gabis and Joseph Cornelli, if he had a role at one of the two Pennsylvania clinics following the state ruling, they declined comment.

Then, several sources told CP that, to their surprise, they had Brigham last week at a recent state health department meeting for abortion providers. Allegheny Women's Center's Dr. Wenger says that at the meeting, "Brigham introduced himself to our medical director as the Allegheny office CEO."

Hill Society's Department of Health spokeswoman described the meeting's attendance as the "heads of the facility," but wouldn't release names. Asked again about Brigham's role, attorney Gabis said, "Dr. Brigham ... does provide occasional managerial oversight. He has no ownership interest in or board position with Rose Health Services."

b righam has made similar representations before. In October 2010, he stood before the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners over allegedly beginning late-term abortions in that state and then driving women to Illinois, Mo., to complete them. According to the *Inquirer*, Brigham argued that he didn't need a Maryland license because he was simply "organizing an organization" at the Illinois clinic. But he admitted, "I did the cases."

According to records obtained by City Paper, after management within Allegheny Medical Services remained unchanged, Donna Smith is the district manager, according to newspaper reports, she was the director

as far back as 2009. City Paper asked the health department why Brigham is allowed to remain a manager at the two Pennsylvania clinics despite the July 2010 order, as well as why his mother is permitted to be the "owner." Spokeswoman Benson said that because Brigham supported the order, "It has not yet been required." She declined to say if the health department is not enforcing the order by fines, or imposing with state law or a judge's ruling. That Brigham has been allowed to play an apparently "managerial" role vis-à-vis to everyone in the pre-shoe industry only when City Paper asked.

"It's a judge had ordered [not to impose the order], then why not tell [the media]?" The Department of Health said he does everything in its power to protect the lives and health of women in Pennsylvania," says the ACLU's Pimental. "The part that I don't understand ... is that the state really did have the opportunity to shut his clinics down."

Meanwhile, as Brigham's fate hangs in the air, women continue to have abortions at Allegheny Medical Services and American Women's Services—Pittsburgh. Though Brigham's name has been off the air so far, for now, it's still easy for women to know of his involvement in American Women's Services. The company's website doesn't list his name. It also has the hotline number 1-888-ABORTION.

Says Sigmund, of the National Abortion Federation, "He shouldn't be allowed to own or operate abortion clinics in any state in this country."

In the grand jury's 2011 report on Cornelli, investigators lay a great deal of blame on the Department of Health's lack of oversight. In the mid-'90s, it says, under pre-director Gus Tins, Judge's administration, the department "largely decided, for political reasons, to stay out of the abortion clinic world."

Who provided an interminable easy way for the health department to solve the problem. Start by opening clinics again, in which it promptly did last year. But women's health advocates argue that Brigham's case proves that the health department's problems can be deeper than just the need to regulate.

Keys, the former director of the Allegheny Department of Health, says on the health department's persistent problems are now better result of a long history of years ago. When this happened, she says, the department "struggled to shoulder and control" from abortion clinics, partly because of society's stigma toward the procedure.

"I don't think it was overlooked," she says. "It was just easier to ignore."

Ironically, a month right's advocate says the same stigma is what continues to drive women to Brigham's clinics. "People think they don't have many choices. Abortion is still a dirty word," says Katz. "They think, 'I deserve to go somewhere dirty.'"

The Department of Health, meanwhile, "is taking the necessary steps to ensure the health and safety of women seeking these services in the commonwealth," says spokeswoman Benson, noting that it has recently "adopted new procedures" to do so.

Some of these procedures are good news to abortion rights advocates — others are not. But a case like Brigham's, they argue, should be clear-cut. "If someone's lives are at risk," says Pimental, "why is it taking so long?"

(citypaper.breitbart.com)

City Paper,
meanwhile, has
found proof that
the "new" man-
agement isn't
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BRIGHAM AND MORTER. The clinic formerly owned by Brigham is a tightly headquartered in Voorhees, N.J.

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Practice up for writing about a Therapist covering up a fire

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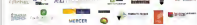
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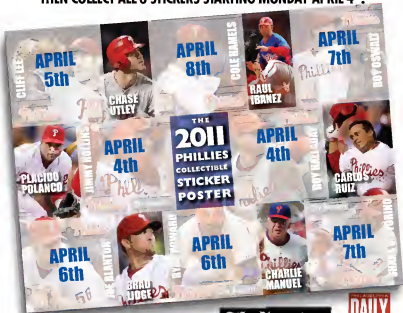
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QUIXOTIC YOUTH

IN THE INTERSECTION OF Secularist Ground — and its sibling of Conventional Dairy Diets — is a crossroads of more vegetation. Positioned close to the former industrial centers of the near Midwest, it's a natural change. Intentional arts collective Fugatefarmers has channelled the spirit of the site to produce "Soil Nation," a temporary public art installation commissioned by the city's Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy.

highlighted the story of Gabe's living in a project that will transform a vacant building into a 301-foot-tall industrial and soup kitchen featuring a 30-foot working window! "Soil Kitchen" will run in conjunction with the EPA's 2011 National Greenfields Conference, an event featuring environmental activists. During the installation anyone can bring a soil sample from their neighborhood and have it tested for lead while enjoying waffles and water on a spot from Green River Canteen.

The Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy is using the Brownfields Conference as well as Philly as an opportunity to marry two of its goals: funding more temporary public art and highlighting projects with a sustainability angle. They selected proposals from a short list of groups.

"Future farmers was unceremoniously chosen," explains the office's Theresa Rose. "It was the project that was the most generous—there also picnic and spoke about local food and urban farming in a more oblique way."

"We definitely build a lot of a narrative based around the Old Quebec sculpture," explains Futu-Farmers. Don Allende "Something that periodically acted as a backdrop to the way Gervais wrote about windmills. It was right before the Industrial Revolution... I always think of them as harvesting free energy... but then it was seen as disruptive and we wanted to play with that."

During its one-day run, the space will also host lectures, workshops and seminars on everything from wind turbine construction to composting to urban farming to remedial contaminated soil. There will also be reading about San Quente.

"We want to come in and be a catalyst," says Alimide. "Asking the EPA, 'What should people do if they find contaminants in their soil?' And asking the city, 'What's your plan for urban agriculture?' We're trying to set up relationships, goals and activities that basically get Philadelphia ready to have the conversation on its own."

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1. **Introduction**

PLEASE FELIZ ME

In Fort Washington, two Garco's vets have found their happy place. **By Adam Erase**

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Somewhere, Jose Gaitan is standing. His empire is much more than it's a major contributor of food industry talent. His kids are growing up, moving out, moving on. These agents, maybe he's not smiling — losing Tim Spence, the former Distrito chief who just opposed Cristina Fiala in Port Washington, had to hurt — but he's probably not a little crowd-avoider on his way

"Joe understood I had this drive and entrepreneurial spirit," says Spizner, who'd been with Garon since the 11th Vets Days. "Ultimately, it was all guts, no glory." Now, Spizner has both, and he and partner Brian Scharf (Dietz's former beverage manager) have traded one 130-hour work week for another. "But now, we're putting it into our own business."

Spencer sounds happy. No wonder he and Bartel, friends since attending West Windsor-Plainsboro High outside Princeton, saved this place after years of Coney Pops.

It's in the old *Alamo* Two sense, which sets at the intersection.

of GPS and Required, and from the outside, looks like a Passer's parlor. Fortunately, this member states masses his plenty of life. Garner and Strickland stripped the restaurant of its blue velvet pump suit, broke out a will, shuffled the service stations and brightened up the space with help from Elizabeth Knapp, the designer who worked on Zachary and Percy Smith. Each one

On a Friday conversation resembled like mosquitoes off the hot-pink walls and endured longer. All 27 stools appeared occupied in the bar, where five three-chucking types of marijuana named NCAA sports. Even South Philly artist Alison Delvario's *Dis de los Maestros* skeletons were having fun, making mischief on a vibrant mural just east 33 feet along Felix's floor.

crinkled fronted hamachi cubes in a coconut milk broth flavored with lemongrass, topped with coconut meat and garnished with ruby perilla leaves made that second one with their rock-crunchy crunch. Piles of hot mushrooms and king oyster mushrooms, ground with jalapeño, chives, lime and salt and a two-egg scallion omelette in a vegetable pan. Spinae were like lettuce covers in a beef or pork, but I'd have a helluva time selecting a favorite. Both beef bowls, not to mention associated with a soulmate, came that infused to knock down.

But would I drive to Montgomery County to see them again? That's the real question for city dwellers.

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continued on page 16

Would I drive to Montgomery County to eat here again?

whisper down 76 like the blade of a circular saw and a leg sat flew under my car, slinging about like a projectile in the pages of a church organ. Nobody said, though I haven't gotten the driver's address yet.

But I digress. Targeting the suburbs — Conroy and Massapequa were also explained — was a smart move for Spencer and Merlak. We already have something like Carbone Pizzeria in Philly; it's called Durvito.

From the crab puffs and served-as-separates Polenta Bette of Mexican groundbeef, start of Tuscan Bites, glass of red to the menu design and sorbet-topped sorghos, there are many similarities. But then again, why wouldn't there be? In a way, Durvito was an exact Spencer's restaurant in Conroy.

There were signs we were in the burbs: a Little Amegnon town. The next garage approach, how Philly alone where we arrived, was empty by 10, and the prices. Dinner for four with drinks and tax came to only \$59 a person, more than enough savings to offset the taxpayers bill.

The black box is one of the priciest at \$14.95, but featured a generous \$160 menu in garlic and parsley, perfectly grilled and draped over when buttery Carolina was finished with golden peppers, crab and corn — the robust seafood dish that sets of crab on grain. We wouldn't have the second last would be lighter, and yet the two of us, because our tortilla seemed to have been their plate like stricken people. On top: heaps of shredded pork butt Spencer beans, then sautéed for three hours in pork, orange juice, Coke and evaporated milk. Quite the mix, but the pork turned out impressively tender (filled with shards of crisp skin), the beans looked perfect (spiced on the table into thyme and cilantro-seeded bread sauce).

I missed the crisp skin on the chicken and a, cooked even while, the head was most under its fleshy exterior, but Spencer killed it on the sauce, a byproduct, fragrant flow of parmesan cheese, chocolate, fruits, nuts and spices — something Mexican, somehow, really reached through — developed over a two-plus-hour simmer. More chicken found a home in an overcooked tortilla soup, while yogurt dressing, smoky with honey, gave a lightweight dropped salad some gravitas. Outraged, poached in pickling-spiced and wine, sliced into cubes and served on the platters, served with polenta and sautéed potatoes for a cool riff on a classic piping sweet, nearly rose-scented medley from a saucy gazpacho-style broth, a special that truly was.

Once by another shot, we devoured the stained glass window of breaded chicken off the top of the two tortillas, but left the chunky skin. A skin-riddled apple sauce last had red-reddening quinine, its tanginess offset of breaded topping clearly (in on its way to a Fourth of July barbecue. But justly after Meg Christensen, who taught Spencer at the Restaurant School, David her skills in the ice cream and sorbet crests, spicing rebelling legends (spices that, like, coconut milk and vanilla chocolate and vanilla. I don't know if they'll make Ganesha milk, but they were made us.

(Johns.crowley@nytimes.com)

[the week in eats]

food & drink

WHAT'S COOKING



Art and Dessert Benefit for Japan at Elbar Coffee
Fri., April 2, 6-9 p.m., \$10+ suggested donation ► Permits assistance to the Red Cross to aid those affected by the disaster in Japan by joining Zanna chef/owner Haruko "Zanna" Tanaka at Elbar this Friday. They'll hold a silent auction featuring the work of local artists, all collections and donations will go directly toward relief efforts. Tanaka will be serving a sweet dessert treat for attendees collected specifically for this fundraising event. *Elbar Coffee, 307 S. 15th St., 215-475-8224, elbarcoffee.com.*

Flavors of Philadelphia Thu., April 5, 4-5:30 p.m., \$250

► Now in its seventh year, *Flavors of Philadelphia* brings together top local chefs to raise money for the American Liver Foundation. Chaired by La Cuchara's Anthony Manopella and Sophia Stogerson of Water Works, this year's event (open to anyone, a three-course tasting, a dessert reception, live music and a live auction) will honor George Perrier. Participating restaurants include Terra, Union Trust, Hushfish, Capital Grille and Pizzeria Lucca. *Philadelphia Hotel, 1250 Market St., 215-425-8080*

Sunday Supper at JO Domestic Sat., April 3, 4-9 p.m., \$38 ► JO Domestic is transforming its usual off days into an on-sun for family-style supper. The prices will change weekly, but this Sunday they'll debut with Springer Mountain chicken, served with herbs or food with homemade. Sides, too — suggest macaroni with Vermont cheddar, pickled baby carrots, and chilled horseradish, among other salads and veggies. Seasonal fruit colliders for dessert. They'll also provide sweet drinks and local beers to pair with dinner. *JO Domestic, Cira Centre, 2809 Arch St., 215-222-2862, joamerican.com.*

Amie Industry Night with Gabrielle Hamilton Mon., April 4, 10 p.m., free admission (find with restaurant pay stub) ► Gabrielle Hamilton, co-founder of Prune in Manhattan's East Village, has a leg up on her friends with her industry evening *Blood, Bones and Butter*. She'll share her stories (and her food) at Marc Veira's *Amor on Monday* night. Stop by the monthly in the bar early to sample the seasonal lunch (Hamilton writes about early on her bar-seller Veira will send out three copies of Hamilton's book to the first 150 guests to arrive. *Amor, 422 S. 13th St., 215-752-2697, amordinner.com.*

—Laura Proulx-Purdy

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• NOW SEATING

Gunnery Run | Reprising Swirl Hill, Gunnery Run at a bar/restaurant from concert promoter Bryan DeWorth, Gile City Tivoli owner Jason Goldberg, bookseller Tim Borer and chef Renee Salberger. Grand opening today the space's bones mirror the scene, but it has been dressed up to carry more of a rock 'n' roll vibe. There are 10 bars on tap and plenty more on bottles to wash down. Salberger's signature, including her double-up "Bad Luck Burger" buttermilk fried chicken and a chicken's entire. Gunnery Run is open daily for lunch and dinner, with brunch on the weekends. *Phone:* at Schmidt, 1087 N Second St., 215-921-4600, gunneryrun.com.

Indian Restaurant | Mohammed Islam, owner of Bang of Tandoor (1524 Callowhill St.), has moved down south to open a second location. The Indian restaurant — a fully named Indian Restaurant — offers a large menu (not on, takeout, delivery) under to RoTi, with Northern Indian options plenty. It's open daily for lunch and dinner. 1636 South St., 215-264-9671, indianrestaurantpa.com.

16th Bar & Grill | The latest addition to the hopping restaurant block of 16th Street is 16th, a bar/grill from Mike Bonifazio, who once operated Penn Street Pizza/Pizza's Vice Grill for the better part of three decades before Georgetown Center expansion forced him to shut down. Chef Aaron Hayler's menu features cuts like: game shrimp in a mustard-almond-miso pan, and crispy w/steamed chicken with potato pan-fries. Open daily. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 1526 Second St., 267-639-0554.

Brown Thel Cuisine | Leslie and Patty Pugh are opening a second Brown Thel Cuisine (aka BYOB) in Chatterbox. Debuting on Friday April 3, Brown No. 2 will feature a menu similar to the 3rd and Seamen original — don't miss the "Golden Eggs," little fried dumplings filled with shrimp and chicken, or any of the killer curries. They'll serve lunch and dinner Tuesday to Sunday. 829 Arch St., 215-889-7335, brownthelcuisine.com.

Hot & High Place and restaurant menu from localhost/paper.net or call 215-726-4636, or 219

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